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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-10 DLOS-09 OES-07 L-03
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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9465

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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: A NEW IMPASSE AT THE GENEVA LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE?

1. THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' FEAR THAT UNRESTRICTED USE OF SEA RESOURCES MAY LEAD TO A MONOPOLY OF THOSE RESOURCES BY THE DEVELOPED NATIONS "IS JUSTIFIED", ACCORDING TO JOURNALIST MPOYI MUKENDI OF KINSHASA WEEKLY ZAIRE MAGAZINE APR 24. MR. MPOYI NOTES THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WOULD LIKE TO REACH AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT WHEREBY ANY COUNTRY COULD PARTICIPATE FREELY IN THE USE OF SEA RESOURCES; THE AGREEMENT WOULD ALSO SET FORTH GUIDELINES FOR THE OPERATIONS AND WOULD ALSO PROVIDE FOR PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT
AND INVESTMENTS.

2. "WELL AWARE OF THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL AND FINANCIAL INCAPACITY", CONTINUES JOURNALIST MPOYI, "THE DEVELOPING COUNTIRES WANT THE EXPLOITATION OF SEA RESOURCES TO BE LEFT IN THE HANDS OF AN INTER-NATIONAL BODY WHICH WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT." COMMENTARY ASKS WHETHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, EQUIPPED AS THEY ARE WITH THE NECESSARY MACHINERY AND TECHNOLOGY,
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WILL BE ABLE TO RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO MONOPOLIZE THE USE OF SEA RESOURCES.

3. CONTINUING, MR. MPOYI INDICATES THAT WHILE THE TWO GROUPS APPARENTLY AGREE THAT MARINE RAW MATERIALS BELONG TO ALL OF MANKING, "THEIR STRATEGIC INTERESTS ARE NOT ALWAYS THE SAME." IN THE PAST, HE ARGUES, SIMILAR CONFLICTS OF INTEREST "HAVE

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LED TO DEADLOCKS" IN SIMILAR SITUATIONS "SUCH AS THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND THE UN CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT"; THEREFORE, "SHARP DISAGREEMENTS ARE TO BE FEARD AT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE", CONCLUDES ARTICLE. ITEM.
DUMAS

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Disposition Event:
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From: KINSHASA
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